

Floor Sweepers Glossary

Floor sweepers are an important tool for collecting and removing debris and dust, and these machines are available in a wide variety of formats. The range comprises from manually operated sweepers for small areas, through to ride-on machines for larger surface areas.

Selecting the right floor sweeper means considering the type of floor, the size of the area to be cleaned and access. Below are some of the technical terms used by manufacturers which may help you to understand what they mean.

Terminology	What does it mean	Why does it matter
Dimensions	The physical dimensions of the sweeper	The dimensions of the body of the sweeper. It does not necessarily include the side brush or brushes. The dimensions are particularly important if access to the cleaning area is limited by doorways etc
Cleaning /Working Width	The effective width of floor cleaned	The cleaning width is determined by the size and placement of the brush, and is different from the machine width. This is relevant for estimating how long it would take to clean a floor (along with the machine speed for ride-on machines).
Climbing Rate	This is the incline that the machine can surmount. It is normally expressed as a percentage	If the machine has to cope with any sort of slope or uneven floor, particularly if it is to be used outside, then the climbing rate is an important measurement.
Working Speed	The speed at which the ride on sweeper operates effectively	This will determine the speed of cleaning and the time taken
Hopper Capacity	The vessel that contains the swept up debris.	The greater the capacity of the hopper, the more debris it can collect, reducing the time take to empty. The design of the hopper should make sure that deposits don't fall back out when it is full
Brushes	The tools that do the cleaning	The configuration of brushes on the sweeper. They can be located on the side of the machine or in the middle or both. The side brushes are useful for sweeping against walls or cracks.

Filter Area	Sweepers create dust during the cleaning process, the filter prevents the resulting dust recirculating in the surrounding air	The filter will collect dust and will eventually need cleaning, the larger the area the less often this will need to be done. Some machines have a “filter shaker” deposits the collected dust from the filter into the waste hopper.
Max Area Performance	The area that can be cleaned, normally expressed as square metres per hour	Enables a sweeper to be selected that can clean an area in the shortest time. Bear in mind this is a theoretical figure and factors like the floor surface and the amount and type of dirt to be cleaned have an impact
Machine Weight	The total weight of the machine normally in Kg	The weight is a consideration for the operator. It is also important to consider the design of the machine making sure that the machine is designed to make the weight manageable. If a machine is too light it may tip over or turn too easily
Power Source	Manual, battery or Engine	Because the range of sweeping machines is so large, a small sweeper may be pushed manually by the operator whereas a large ride on sweeper is often powered by a diesel, petrol or even lpg driven engine. If the machine is to be used inside, this may determine whether a battery or engine powered machine is preferable.
Sound Level	The noise the sweeper makes in operation	This is particularly important if the machine is to be used when other operatives or the public are present, normally the acceptable level is 63dBA.



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